On the Translator's Behavior Criticism of the English Translation of Local Language in Mo Yan's Novels

Qi Jiaming
Nanjing University of Science and Technology Zijin College, Nanjing, 210046, Jiangsu, China

Keywords: Local Language, Literature, Translator Behavioral Criticism, Translation Strategy, Language Style

Abstract: Mo Yan's Works Are Mainly Local Literature, Mostly Using Local Language, and Reflecting Innovative Ideas in the New Era. Starting from the Language Style to Explore the Innovative Ideas of Mo Yan's Novel Language, It is of Great Significance to Translation Studies. Therefore, This Paper Analyzes the Most Distinctive Local Language in Mo Yan's Novels, and Makes Readers Feel the Charm of Local Language. under the Guidance of Translators' Behavioral Criticism Theory, the Author Analyzes and Summarizes the Different Evaluation Modes of Translators, Summarizes the Inadequacies of Local Language Processing in Mo Yan's Novels, and Analyzes the Translation of Different Translators' Native Language, in Order to Sum Up the Practicality. the English Translation Strategy of Local Language Lays the Foundation for Further English Translation of Local Language.

1. Introduction

1.1 Literature Review

The success or failure of literary creation depends on the use of language, which is an important factor to attract readers. Every writer's language style is unique, Mo Yan is no exception. Mo Yan was once commented by some writers that a writer's language style is determined by his original talent and will not be changed easily (Du, 2017). Each of us uses the same language when we write, but the language style is quite different, so thousands of works emerge. Each of Mo Yan's works shows his profound language skills and skillful language application ability. According to Mo Yan, every writer should have his own unique language style to distinguish himself from others, which is also one of the important characteristics that distinguish him from others. (Du, 2017). Mo Yan, who has attracted worldwide attention and discussion, is an important research object in the field of Chinese and even foreign literature. The formation of his language style has gone through different periods, and each period is accompanied by his rich life experience (Chen, 2013). Zhou Lingshun believes that translator's behavior is the sum of translator's linguistic translation behavior and social non translation behavior from the perspective of society. That is to say, the translator believes that in translation, the language style should be faithful to the original text and grasp the principle of seeking truth and pragmatism, so that the readers can experience the charm of local language and the feelings of the author of the original text. (Fu, 2017). The Chinese language and culture are broad and profound, among which Mo Yan's novels are famous for their strong local flavor. Some dialect words often appear in his works. The author uses these words properly, which makes the works more persuasive and attractive. The characters are portrayed incisively and vividly, which can make the readers feel that they are in the mood.

1.2 Purpose of Research

In 2012, Mo Yan won the Nobel Prize for literature, which caused a great sensation in the world and attracted the attention of scholars and readers at home and abroad. A series of local works by Mo Yan contain a strong flavor of local language, which to a certain extent reflects the local customs and customs. So far, Ge Haowen's translation of local languages has reached the world's leading level. However, due to the different translation strategies, there are still objections to the...
translation of Ge Haowen. But it is precisely because of the existence of dissent that the translator's translation can make continuous progress. At the same time, by comparing the translations of different translators, the author can learn different translation methods and improve the translation level.

2. A Study of English Translation of Lacao Languages

2.1 Theoretical Analysis of the Connotation of Local Language

Local language is an informal language in the countryside, which is easy to understand and unique in local people's daily life. As a form of language, the development of local language provides materials for the creation of local novels. It has become a conventional theoretical classic of local novels in various countries and a major feature of Mo Yan's works. According to the common sense, as long as there is “local literature”, there must be “local language”. The “local literature” and “local language” echo each other. The main feature of local literature works is the use of local language, which mainly includes xiehouyu, proverb, idiom, slang and other words with local characteristics. As a rural native, Mo Yan's understanding and application of the local language can be described as the peak, but only the local people can understand its real meaning, especially in translation, the local language has become a big problem for translators, they have to communicate with the original author to achieve the same meaning between the translation and the original.

2.2 Application Scope and Value of Local Language

As long as there is local literature, local language will exist. After all, literature is based on language. There are many writers who study local literature in China. Of course, Mo Yan's literature with local language is more popular with readers. Moreover, foreign translators' translation of Mo Yan's works, especially the translation of local language, is also the dissemination of Chinese culture. The local flavor in Mo Yan's novels is everywhere, and readers have the feeling of entering Mo Yan's hometown when reading his works. At the same time, some dialect words in the works also reflect Mo Yan's attachment and love for his hometown, and remind readers of his hometown when he was a child. Many readers don't even know what the dialect is, but after reading Mo Yan's novels, they have a deeper understanding of the dialect and have a strong interest in the local language. Therefore, Mo Yan's novels have spread and promoted the culture of their hometown. There are many little-known traditional culture in the novel, such as drama and shadow play, which not only spread the local language, but also reflect the extensive and profound Chinese culture.

3. Translator’s behaviour critisism of english translation of “local language” In mo yan’s novels

3.1 Translator's Free Translation Behavior Criticism

Ge Haowen, the representative of the foreign translator, claims that his translation of Mo Yan's works is mainly free translation, that is, to jump out of the original text and translate according to his own understanding, rather than to translate word for word and sentence according to the original text. However, the translation circle believes that GE Haowen's free translation completely conforms to the literal translation, that is to say, the literal translation which is faithful to the original and vivid. Ge Haowen thinks that no matter what kind of translation, as long as it is readable, the translation can be called the top grade. However, through the analysis of Ge Haowen's translation, scholars can find that his translation of most of the local languages conforms to the principle of literal translation and adheres to the principle of being faithful to or close to the original. For example, Mo Yan said in the novel “fat breasts” that “hot drinks” and Ge Haowen translated it into eat sweets and drink spice drinks drinks. There are so many such translations that even the authentic Americans may not be able to understand the meaning, let alone the deep meaning of “affluence” and “luxury” (Jiang, 2018). Although Ge Haowen and other foreign translators mostly
adopt the principle of literal translation, the translation academic circles say that this does not affect
the authenticity and readability of translation. Therefore, as long as the translation is faithful to the
original, and then some free translation and domestication processing, it is a good work.

3.2 The Translator's Criticism of Continuous Translation with Modification

In the field of translation, the study of “local language” in Mo Yan's novels is still rare, most of
which are the analysis and discussion of Ge Haowen's translation. In terms of research methods, the
diversity and application of translation methods are often studied, and the conclusion is that GE
Haowen's greatest feature for Mo Yan's novel translation is “continuous translation with changes”
(Wei, 2015). It is also the translation of Ge Haowen. His essays and novels are quite different. The
beautiful sentences in his essays must be carefully considered, faithful to the original and higher
than the original. However, due to the consistency of the plot and the overall characteristics of the
characters, the novels can be cut and rewritten in Translation. For example, Ge Haowen translated
“marry a chicken and share the coop, marry a dog and share the kennel,” although the translation of
this sentence includes the chicken and dog in the original text, he translated “follow” into “share”,
and the second chicken and dog cleverly translated into “cage” and “Kennel”, the overall translation
has changed. Although this kind of translation method makes the readers clear at a glance, the
translation academic circle still does not accept this translation principle. They believe that
translation must be faithful to the original text, even if there is no original vocabulary, the meaning
expressed must be consistent with the original. Ge Haowen's continuous translation method is not
only not faithful to the original text, but also the culture conveyed is quite different from the
original text, which leads to the deviation of readers' understanding of the source culture and is not
conducive to the spread of the source culture.

3.3 Translator's Lexicalization Model

Ge Haowen's translation of the words in Mo Yan's novels is difficult to understand because he
pays too much attention to seeking truth. Some words need free translation, that is, translators need
to select appropriate words according to the meaning of the original text for transformation, but
some translators still follow the “lexicalization” model for rigid word for word translation, giving
the reader a sense of ambiguity (Jia, 2015). Ge Haowen translated the phrase “watching the donkey
and singing our song” into we will keep riding the donkey and singing our song. He kept all the
information of “donkey” and “singing”. The surface meaning of the original text was expressed, but
it was difficult for the readers to understand the meaning of the message, and it was difficult for the
target language readers to understand it if the meaning was not clear. Therefore, it is not difficult to
find that the translator tries to approach the original text to seek truth, but it is difficult to keep the
original information and style at the same time, which is the result of the imbalance of translation
strategy selection. Translation scholars don't quite agree with Ge Haowen's “lexicalization” mode of
translation. They believe that although the rigid translation can accurately express the literal
meaning, it is difficult to vividly depict the original text to achieve the actual effect of translation.

4. Conclusion

In Mo Yan's novels, the use of local language is more, and the study of this aspect is more
in-depth. The translator's translation of Mo Yan's novels has spread Chinese culture to the world.
Therefore, in the process of translation, the translator should try his best to deal with the
information of the original text rationally, and at the same time, the translator should also keep
learning the culture of the source language, and transfer the information of the original text and the
cultural ideas to be expressed to the readers as much as possible. Through the analysis of the
translation, we know that in the future translation, we should give full play to the translator's
subjective initiative, not to distort the original text, and not to break away from the society, so as to
achieve better translation results.
Acknowledgement

2019 Jiangsu Social Science Application Research Project (Foreign Language Project)”Translation of Chinese”Folk Language” in Light of Translator Behavior Criticism -- A Case Study of Goldblatt’s Version of Luotuoxiangzi”(19SWB-035)

References


